

TELLY award, and many other awards. Through WCCA, Mauro offers citizens of Worcester from all walks of life and opinions the chance to speak their mind and be heard.

Mauro's soft-spoken exterior gives way to lively piano and vocals when he performs with his popular musical combo Jazzed Up, which he started in 2012. For the past few years, Jazzed Up has performed at the Worcester Columbus Day Parade Grand Marshal Banquet. Jazzed Up has been nominated Best Jazz Act at the Worcester Music Awards 2012–2015, and in 2014, Worcester Living Magazine voted Jazzed Up Best Entertainment group in Central Massachusetts.

Mauro is proud of his Italian heritage. Like so many Americans, his family came to the United States in search of a better life. His own experiences—hearing of the oppression and prejudice faced by immigrants when they first arrived in the United States—have made Mauro a lifelong supporter of the underdog and a strong voice for community service in Worcester. Mauro has been a fierce advocate for preserving Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. As President of the Mount Carmel Preservation Society, he has fought tirelessly to save the church, which has been an epicenter for the Italian-American community in Worcester for nearly ninety years.

But Mr. Speaker, I rise today not just to recognize Mauro's public service, but to congratulate him on a new honor—on October 8, 2017 Mauro will march down Shrewsbury Street as Grand Marshal of the 2017 Worcester Columbus Day Parade. I join with all the residents of Worcester in thanking Mauro for his service to our community, and congratulating him on his selection as Grand Marshal of the 2017 Worcester Columbus Day Parade.

COMMEMORATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PAUL HALL CENTER FOR MARITIME TRAINING AND EDUCATION

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education, which is located in Maryland's Fifth Congressional District. It is one of the leading schools for merchant mariners in the United States and a major contributor to the development and maintenance of our nation's proud maritime traditions.

The Paul Hall Center, which was founded in 1967 by late Seafarers International Union President Paul Hall, runs the leading training program for unlicensed merchant mariners in the United States today. It offers more U.S. Coast Guard-approved training courses than any other school in the nation and has trained tens of thousands of mariners since its founding. The Paul Hall Center's apprenticeship program, which is registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, has been praised as one of the most effective apprenticeship programs in the country and was honored as an "Innovator and Trailblazer" by the Labor Department in 2012. Today, the Paul Hall Center provides students a world-class education, preparing new merchant mariners to take their places on vessels sailing in both foreign and U.S.-flag fleets.

It is critical that our country maintain a merchant marine capable of transporting a large share of the seagoing commerce of the United States. The Paul Hall Center's programs help ensure a sufficient number of well-trained, highly skilled merchant mariners to crew U.S.-flag vessels both for the privately owned merchant marine and for U.S. government-operated fleets.

To that end, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the significant contributions that the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education has made to our economy, our homeland security, and our national defense through its support of the U.S. Merchant Marine. I hope they will also join me in congratulating the Paul Hall Center on reaching this fiftieth anniversary milestone. I'm proud to represent this wonderful institution in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JIM WHELAN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Whelan, a friend, colleague, and accomplished public servant, who passed away Tuesday August 22nd at the age of 68 at his home in Atlantic City, NJ.

Jim was born in Philadelphia on November 8, 1948. His academic and athletic career is nothing short of extraordinary. Jim became a nationally ranked distance swimmer while pursuing a B.A. in English at Temple University, later leading to his induction into the Temple University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995 and the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1999. Always passionate about helping others, Jim went on to receive a Masters of Education at Temple University, taking a job as a teacher in the Atlantic City School District shortly thereafter.

This was only the beginning of Jim's lifelong dedication to public service in Atlantic City and New Jersey. In 1981, Jim was elected to his first seat in public office, as a member of the Atlantic City Council. In 1990, Jim was elected Mayor of Atlantic City in a landslide, a symbol of how beloved he had become in Atlantic City. Jim and I served together as Mayors in New Jersey for seven years.

Jim was an outstanding Mayor, fighting tirelessly to revitalize Atlantic City. His work will surely be remembered for generations to come as crucial to the growth and development of Atlantic City. Serving alongside him as a New Jersey Mayor was nothing short of an honor and a pleasure. An even greater pleasure still was his consistent friendship and support. Throughout our years of friendship, I knew I could always count on Jim as a confidant and for his measured, thoughtful perspective.

As a Mayor, Jim focused his support on not just Atlantic City, but on legislation addressing the needs of all New Jersey Mayors and their Municipalities through his active service in the New Jersey Conference of Mayors. Eventually, he served as President of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors from 2000 to 2001. This only speaks to Jim's consistent dedication to helping others in any way he can. His

decade of outstanding service as Mayor led to Jim being recognized as the Mayor of the Year by the New Jersey Conference of Mayors in 2001.

After departing as Mayor of Atlantic City in 2001, Jim returned to teaching. Only four years later, he was elected to the State Assembly of New Jersey. Two years after that, he was elected to the New Jersey Senate. Jim brought the very same traits that made him such a wonderful Mayor to legislating on behalf of all of New Jersey. The New Jersey Conference of Mayors again recognized Jim in 2009 as Legislator of the Year.

After a life of service to Atlantic City and New Jersey, Jim's honesty, dedication, love for his constituency, and kindness will be missed dearly. Jim is survived by his wife, Kathy, and their son Richard. Jim Whelan's service and devotion to his wife Kathy and son Richard were remarkable in every way. He was truly an honorable man who made this place better. My sincerest condolences are with Kathy, Richard, Jim's entire family, his staff and colleagues during this trying time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Mr. Jim Whelan's colleagues, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing Mr. Jim Whelan's remarkable life of public service.

KENNETH SMITH

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Petty Officer Kenneth "Kenny" Aaron Smith of Cherry Hill, New Jersey for his service to our nation.

Petty Officer Smith was born in Jackson, Michigan in 1995 and moved to Chesapeake, Virginia at the age of 10. When he was a teenager, Petty Officer Smith moved to South Jersey with his father, a Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve. In 2013, he graduated from Cherry Hill High School—East, and followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps to join the U.S. Navy. As a third generation sailor, Petty Officer Smith was in his fourth year of serving.

During his time in the Navy, Petty Officer Smith worked in radar technology and held the rank of Electronics Technician, 3rd class and was posthumously advanced to the rank of Electronics Technician 2nd Class. During his free time, he published science fiction writings through an online platform known as 'Wattpad.' These writings were well liked by fans of the website. As an avid gamer, he also aspired to eventually pursue a career as a video game developer.

Petty Officer Smith is remembered by those close to him as being adventurous, loyal and patriotic. During his time at sea, Petty Officer Smith's ship had been to Australia and Japan, and he was looking forward to traveling to more places throughout the world. Petty Officer Smith was also known for his dedication to human rights, a love for animals and the ability to leave a positive mark on those he was acquainted with.

Petty Officer Smith was a true American hero who sadly lost his life while serving in the United States Navy. His service and sacrifice